SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MAR.
NO. 361
12¢
I GAVE YOU TWO BLACK EYES, SUPERMAN... NOW I'M GOING TO BUST YOUR NOSE!
FEATURING:
"THE POWER OF THE PARASITE!"

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WIN A REAL CESSNA

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SUPERMAN

HE'S BACK... THAT FIENDISH FREAK WHO LIVES ON THE ENERGY HE STEALS FROM OTHERS! AND WITH THIS HUMAN SPONGE SOAKING UP ALL HIS SUPER-STRENGTH, EVEN THE **MAN OF STEEL** CAN'T COPE WITH--

"The POWER of the PARASITE!"

THIS IS CRAZY! I SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED THAT WEIGHT TO THE *MOON!* BUT IT SHOWS I ONLY HAVE THE STRENGTH OF A *MOUSE!*

SUPER-MAN

STRONG MAN

YOU'RE GETTING THERE

NOT BAD

SO-SO

TRY HARDER

WEAKLING

MOUSE

JELLYFISH

YOU MISSED

ARE YOU KIDDING?

THIS IS ONLY ACT ONE! IN THE GRAND FINALE, I'LL DRAIN THE LAST VESTIGE OF SUPERMAN'S ENERGY... AND LEAVE HIM A LIFELESS HUSK!

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ONE AFTERNOON, IN THE OFFICE OF **DAILY PLANET** EDITOR PERRY WHITE...

CLARK! I JUST GOT A CALL FROM PROFESSOR CUNNINGHAM OF THE **MT. METRO OBSERVATORY**.. HE SAID HE'S SEEN A **FLYING SAUCER!** SOUNDS LIKE A SCOOP! GET GOING!

RIGHT, PERRY!

MINUTES LATER, AS REPORTER CLARK KENT DRIVES TO THE OBSERVATORY...

MT. METRO IS JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY, SO I SHOULD BE THERE IN A FEW MINUTES...

HOLD ON! I **THOUGHT** MY SUPER HEARING PICKED UP A SUSPICIOUS SOUND JUST OFF THE COAST..AND MY TELESCOPIC VISION **CONFIRMS** IT!

RAPIDLY, CLARK PULLS OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND..

IT'S THE **OCTOPUS GANG** IN THEIR **MECHANICAL OCTOPUS** LOOTING ANOTHER SHIP!

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO CATCH THOSE CHARACTERS IN THE ACT!

EXIT CLARK KENT... ENTER **SUPERMAN!**

MY INTERVIEW WITH CUNNINGHAM CAN WAIT! CORRALING THOSE CROOKS TAKES PRIORITY...AND IT'S A BIGGER STORY, TOO!

A **FLYING SAUCER**... HUH! THE PROF. PROBABLY HAD A **SPECK** ON HIS SPECS!

IF HE DID, **SUPERMAN**, THAT "SPECK" IS NOW HOVERING OVER EARTH AT THE VERY EDGE OF SPACE...

MY **3-D PHOTON-RESONANCE GRAPHER** CANNOT PENETRATE THE CLOUDS THAT COVER THIS AREA!

BUT I **MUST** COMPLETE MY MAPS AND TURN THEM IN TO THE **PLANETARY GEOGRAPHIC COMMISSION** BEFORE MY **DEADLINE!** I HAVE A MAPPING JOB ON **PLATOS II** WAITING!

PERHAPS MY **EVAPO-RAYS** CAN PENETRATE THE ATMOSPHERIC OBSTRUCTIONS!

AH! IT'S WORKING ...THE CLOUDS ARE STARTING TO FADE AWAY!

THERE GO THE LAST OF THE CLOUDS...ALL BUT **ONE**...

...A STRANGE, **GLOWING CLOUD**... PURPLISH IN COLOR! VERY CURIOUS!

I'LL DRAW IT INTO THE SHIP AND ANALYZE IT! THIS MAY BE AN IMPORTANT FIND! LOOK AT THE WAY IT GLOWS AND THROBS!

GREAT OZRON! THE ANALYZER REGISTERS **A LIFE FORCE!** THE CLOUD WAS ONCE A **LIVING THING!**

PERHAPS I CAN **RECREATE** IT! I WONDER WHAT EXOTIC FORM OF LIFE IT **WAS?**

AH! IT IS TAKING SHAPE IN THE **REVIVAL CHAMBER!**

WHY...IT'S HUMAN IN SHAPE...BUT WITH A GROTESQUE FACE!

HE'S STEPPING OUT OF THE CHAMBER! I MUST ASK HIM TO EXPLAIN THIS TO ME!

BUT THEN...

OH-H! AS HE APPROACHES... I FEEL WEAKER...ALL MY ENERGY BEING DRAWN OUT OF ME...STAY BACK!

HE'S DEAD! I STOLE TOO MUCH OF HIS ENERGY!

BUT IT WAS HIS OWN FAULT, FOR BRINGING ME...THE PARASITE... BACK TO LIFE!

SINCE I ALSO STOLE THE ALIEN'S MENTALITY, IT SHOULD BE A CINCH TO PILOT THIS CRATE BACK TO EARTH! THEN, NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM TAKING OVER THE WORLD...NOT EVEN SUPERMAN!

SUPERMAN! ONLY HE EVER BEAT ME...AND INDIRECTLY, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY POWERS!

"I WAS A WORKER IN AN ATOMIC LAB. ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS HAULING RADIOACTIVE WASTES TO THE DISPOSAL CENTER..."

I HEARD THEY SOMETIMES SHIP PAYROLLS IN THESE CONTAINERS TO FOOL CROOKS! I'LL JUST LOOK...

GAA!

"THESE WASTES CAME FROM SPACE MINERALS BROUGHT TO EARTH BY SUPERMAN! I FELT THE RADIATIONS PENETRATING TO MY VERY MARROW..."

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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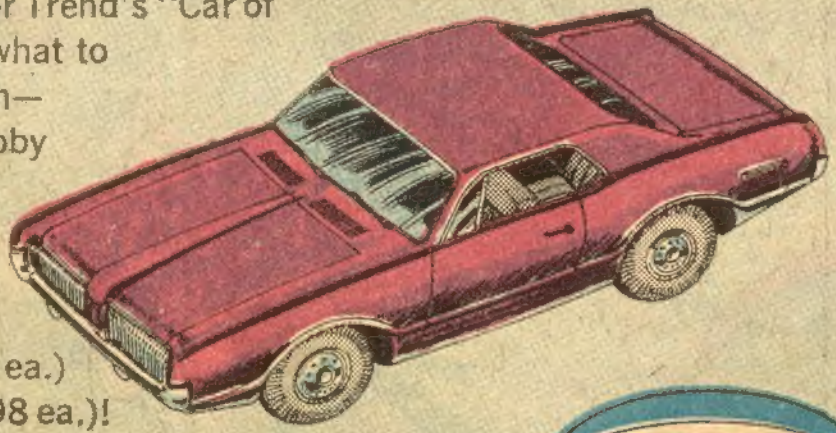

AURORA

MODEL MOTORING

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"THEY CHANGED ME INTO A **HUMAN PARASITE**, CAPABLE OF ABSORBING POWER FROM **ANY LIVING THING!** I FOUGHT **SUPERMAN**...AND **BEAT** HIM...BY SAPPING HIS STRENGTH... AND USING IT **AGAINST** HIM..."

"BUT I ABSORBED **TOO MUCH** POWER **TOO FAST!** BEFORE I COULD STEAL ALL **SUPERMAN'S** INVULNERABILITY, MY BODY BECAME **OVERCHARGED**...AND WAS **VAPORIZED**..."

SO **THIS** TIME I'LL PLAY IT **SMART!** I'LL ABSORB **SUPERMAN'S** POWER A LITTLE AT A TIME, AND AVOID BEING **ATOMIZED!**

IT'LL BE **EASY!** ESPECIALLY SINCE, WHEN I FOUGHT HIM LAST, I LEARNED HIS **SECRET IDENTITY!**

MEANWHILE, WHERE IS THE MAN OF STEEL? A FEW MILES OUT AT SEA FROM **METROPOLIS HARBOR**...

YOU **HIGH-SEAS HI-JACKERS** ARE PROBABLY **FIT TO BE TIED**...SO I'LL DO **JUST THAT!**

YII-I-I! NOW HE'S **SPINNING** US AT SUPER-SPEED!

QUICK, USE OUR *GETAWAY GIMMICK!*

ULP! **SUPERMAN'S** KNOTTING THE **TENTACLES!**

OH-OH! THE OCTOPUS IS LETTING GO WITH A "SMOKE SCREEN," AS **SQUIDS** DO! ONLY INSTEAD OF **INK**, IT'S **POISON GAS!**

IT'S DRIFTING **AWAY** FROM THE SHIP...BUT **TOWARD** THE **MAINLAND!**

HA, HA! WHILE **SUPERMAN** TACKLES THE GAS, WE CAN ESCAPE!

GUESS AGAIN, BOYS!

WITH MY SUPER-SPEED, I HAVE TIME TO MOP UP THESE PIRATES AND **STILL** CATCH THE GAS **BEFORE** IT REACHES LAND!

SECONDS LATER...

I'LL JUST **INHALE** IT ALL AND BREATHE IT INTO THIS TANK I TOOK FROM THE PIRATES!

WHOOSH

I CAN DISPOSE OF IT LATER!

SUDDENLY...

HEY...A **U.F.O.!** IT **COULD** BE THE ONE CUNNINGHAM SAW!

TOO BAD I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO INVESTIGATE IT RIGHT NOW!

I'LL LAND SECRETLY IN THE WOODS SOMEWHERE!

AND SO...

NO ONE WILL EVER FIND THE SHIP HIDDEN HERE, IN THE FOREST! NOW I CAN BEGIN MY PLAN TO STEAL ***SUPERMAN'S*** POWER! I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF, THEN HEAD FOR THE ***DAILY PLANET!***

NEXT DAY, AT THE **DAILY PLANET...**

OOOPS! SORRY, PAL! I HAVE A BIG ASSIGNMENT, AND I'M IN A HURRY!

IT WAS **MY** FAULT!

IT REALLY **WAS.** I **DELIBERATELY** BRUSHED AGAINST JIMMY OLSEN TO ABSORB SOME OF HIS JOURNALISTIC TALENT!

DAILY PLANET

AND SHORTLY, IN THE CITY ROOM...

PARDON ME... MAY I USE ONE OF THE TYPEWRITERS HERE TO WRITE UP A STORY FOR MR. WHITE?

SURE THING!

HA, HA! THIS GIRL DOESN'T DREAM I'M THE **PARASITE** IN DISGUISE!

...NOR THAT I'LL BE USING TALENT I'M SIPHONING FROM HER AND HER FELLOW REPORTERS!

SOON, IN EDITOR PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE... THE **PARASITE'S** PLAN STARTS TO TAKE FORM...

LARCON P. LEECH, EH? AND YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE FOR THE **PLANET?**

I'M **POSITIVE!** READ THESE SAMPLES I JUST TYPED UP.

PLANET

LATER...

CLARK KENT, MEET LARCON LEECH! I'M GIVING HIM A TRYOUT AS A REPORTER, AND I WANT YOU TO SHOW HIM THE ROPES! YOU'LL WORK WITH CLARK, LEECH!

I'LL STICK WITH HIM **EVERY MINUTE,** MR. WHITE!

STEALING HIS **SUPERMAN** POWERS...SLOWLY BUT SURELY!

MY DISGUISE IS **PERFECT!** EVEN **SUPER**...ER...KENT DOESN'T SUSPECT!

CLARK! YOU AND LEECH BETTER GET OVER TO THE **CARLTON DAM...** IT'S REPORTED **CRACKING!**

HMM! THERE'S SOMETHING **FAMILIAR** ABOUT LEECH! CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, THOUGH!

AN HOUR LATER...

THERE'S A HOLE IN THE DAM, ALL RIGHT, KENT!

DAILY PLANET FLYING NEWSROOM

AND THE WHOLE STRUCTURE WILL GO UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE **FAST!** THE TOWN BELOW IT WILL BE **FLOODED!**

YOU QUESTION THE WITNESSES, LEECH, WHILE I TAKE A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE BREAK!

HE WANTS TO CHANGE TO **SUPERMAN!** WELL, **LET** HIM!

AFTER ALL, IF I'M NEAR HIM **TOO LONG**, I MIGHT ABSORB **TOO MUCH** STRENGTH AT ONCE... AND I'M NOT EXACTLY ANXIOUS TO BE A LITTLE PURPLE CLOUD AGAIN!

CARLTON DAM PROJECT ENTER

AND SO, MINUTES LATER...

I'LL STOP THE LEAK WITH THIS GIANT "CORK" I MADE FROM SCRAP LUMBER TILL **PERMANENT** REPAIRS CAN BE MADE!

LOOK! THERE'S **SUPERMAN!** HE'LL SAVE THE DAM!

BUT...

NOW TO PLACE THE PLUG AND... GREAT STARS! THE TREMENDOUS **WATER PRESSURE** IS DRAGGING ME **INTO THE HOLE**...I CAN'T... ;UHH; PULL MYSELF **OUT!**

CAN'T LET...**WATER** ...GET...THE BEST OF...**ME!**

AT LAST... I'M MAKING...HEADWAY ...BREAKING FREE!

;WHEW; I JUST **BARELY** PULLED MYSELF OUT! NOW TO CORK THIS **UP** AND GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! EVEN THOUGH THE PRESSURE IS **TREMENDOUS** HERE, IT STILL SHOULDN'T GIVE **ME** ANY TROUBLE!

COULD THERE BE **KRYPTONITE** NEARBY? **THAT** MIGHT HAVE WEAKENED ME!

BUT THERE'S NO SENSE IN WORRYING ABOUT IT! I'LL SWITCH BACK TO CLARK AND REJOIN LEECH!

IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN SO **LONG!** I MUST BE "BORROWING" STRENGTH **TOO FAST!** I'D BETTER **SLOW DOWN**, OR HE'LL GET **SUSPICIOUS!**

NEXT DAY, AS CLARK AND LEECH ARE AGAIN SENT OUT ON ASSIGNMENT...

YOUR TIPS ON REPORTING SURE ARE HELPFUL, KENT! I...

LOOK! SOMEONE'S CRACKING INTO THAT **BANK!**

I'LL...ER...CALL THE POLICE, LEECH! YOU GET THE STORY!

SECONDS LATER...

THE **MECHANICAL FRAMEWORK** THIS CROOK'S WEARING GIVES HIM **ARTIFICIAL SUPER-STRENGTH!** HE'S EFFORTLESSLY RIPPING THROUGH THE VAULT WALL!

DIDN'T YOU EVER LEARN TO USE THE DOOR?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE OF A FIGHT, BUDDY! YOU CAN'T HURT **ME**... I'M **INVULNERABLE**...OOF!

CHASE METROPOL BANK

BANG!

SOK!

UHH! THAT BLOW **DAZED** ME! BUT IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!**

IMPOSSIBLE?...NEVERTHELESS, **TRUE**, FOR...

OUCH!

WHAM!

POW!

OOF!

BUT THEN...

WOW! THAT CROOK ALMOST BEAT HIM!

NAH... SUPERMAN WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND!

OH YEAH? THOSE MARKS ON HIS FACE ARE REAL!

SPLAK!

I DID IT... FINALLY FOUND AN OPENING!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...

UUH! I WAS ALWAYS ABLE TO TOSS AROUND THESE SUPER-WEIGHTS LIKE FEATHER PILLOWS! NOW I CAN'T EVEN LIFT THEM!

SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE ...IS SLOWLY STEALING MY POWERS!

I'D BETTER SOLVE THIS MYSTERY QUICK...OR MY CAREER IS OVER!

NEXT MORNING, IN THE PLANET OFFICES...

KENT LOOKS WORRIED! HE KNOWS HE'S LOSING ENERGY! SOON HE'LL BEGIN SEARCHING FOR THE REASON!

I STILL HAVEN'T ABSORBED ENOUGH OF HIS POWER TO BATTLE HIM SAFELY! I'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIM BUSY FOR A WHILE...

...AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT! I'LL USE THE POWER I'VE ALREADY ABSORBED TO CREATE EMERGENCIES ONLY HE CAN HANDLE!

I'LL FIND A GOOD ONE WITH MY STOLEN TELESCOPIC VISION!

SHORTLY, THE PARASITE STRIKES... WITH A BLAST OF SUPER-COLD BREATH...

HELP! OUR WINGS ICED UP! WE'LL CRASH!

SUPERMAN DOESN'T SEE ME BEHIND THIS CLOUD...BUT AS HE EXPENDS ENERGY, I ABSORB IT!

WHEW! GOOD THING THIS IS A LIGHT PLANE! I DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE AN AIRLINER NOW!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOU TOO CAN PLAY THE GAME

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

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IT'S AN EXCITING GAME! I BEGIN AS "THE UNKNOWN SUPERGIRL!"

START HERE

LINDA GETS ADOPTED. GO AHEAD 2!

SUPERGIRL LOSES HER POWERS. GO BACK 1.

LESLA-LAR, SUPERGIRL'S FOE. LOSE 1 TURN.

AND HERE I AM AT LAST, AS "THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROINE!"

FIGHTING GERMS IN A HUMAN BLOODSTREAM. STAY 1 TURN.

ENTER DICK MALVERNE GO AHEAD 1.

SUPERGIRL REGAINS HER POWERS. GO AHEAD 2.

ADVENTURES IN KANDOR. STAY HERE 1 TURN.

SUPERGIRL'S IMMUNE TO KRYPTONITE. GO AHEAD 3.

LINDA BECOMES FAT. LOSE 1 TURN.

MR. MXYZPTLK. SAY YOUR NAME BACKWARD.

THE INFINITE MONSTER GO BACK 2.

RED KRYPTONITE. LOSE 1 TURN.

JERRY THE MERBOY. GO AHEAD 2.

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. GO TO FINISH.

FINISH

Starting JAN 9th AT YOUR NEWSDEALER

NEXT, THE STEALER OF STRENGTH USES HEAT VISION TO CREATE ANOTHER CATASTROPHE...

CAN'T PUT OUT THIS FOREST FIRE WITH MY WEAKENED SUPER-BREATH...BUT THIS BIG FAN I MADE, SWUNG WITH ALL MY REMAINING SUPER-SPEED, SHOULD DO IT!

KEEP IT UP, SUPERMAN! YOUR SPEED WILL SOON BE MINE!

IT'S OUT...BUT I'LL CHECK THE WHOLE AREA TO MAKE SURE THERE'S NOT A SPARK LEFT!

HOLD ON! WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT HAS THE MAN OF STEEL SPOTTED?

AND SO, NEXT DAY, HIS DEADLY PLAN ALMOST COMPLETE, THE PARASITE LIES IN WAIT FOR CLARK KENT...

KENT HAS TO PASS THIS ALLEY- AH! HERE HE COMES!

AFTER THIS ENCOUNTER, I'LL BE IMMORTAL! I'LL RULE THE WORLD!

PSST! CLARK! COME HERE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

WHAT IS IT, LEECH?

THIS!

:GASP!: THE PARASITE!

YES, FOOL!... AND NOW MY... I MEAN YOUR HEAT VISION WILL BURN OFF YOUR OUTER GARMENTS! PREPARE FOR THE BEATING OF YOUR LIFE, SUPER-SAP!

HAH!. MY PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY! YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOUR STRENGTH WAS GOING TILL IT WAS TOO LATE!

AND ALL THE TIME I WAS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE! YOU NEVER SUSPECTED!

SMAK!

KER-

SOON, I'LL HAVE ALL YOUR POWER... AND BE KING OF EARTH!

THIS IS A PLEASURE... TO "HAND" YOU BACK YOUR OWN SUNDAY PUNCH!

GOT TO GET... UP! GOT... TO FIGHT... UHH!

IT'S HOPELESS, IDIOT! I JUST FLATTEN YOU AGAIN!

YOUR BLOWS ARE TOO WEAK TO HARM ME NOW!

KWAM!

EVER HAD A BLACK EYE BEFORE, SUPIE? THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING!

I'LL GIVE YOU *TWO!* THEN I'LL BUST YOUR *NOSE!*

PERFECT! YOU'RE LIKE A RAG DOLL IN MY HANDS!... ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS! HA, HA! THE GREAT SUPERMAN!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ALLOW THE LAST VESTIGES OF YOUR POWER TO SEEP INTO MY BODY... IT WILL KILL YOU... BUT ONCE I'VE ABSORBED THE ENERGY OF YOUR SUPER-LIFE FORCE, I'LL BE *IMMORTAL!*

BUT THEN...

WHA...? NO! IT CAN'T BE! I'M ENCLOSED IN SOME SORT OF ENERGY SHELL... BLOCKED OFF FROM SUPERMAN! WHO...HOW...?

WE HAVE TRAPPED YOU, EARTHLING!

WE ARE OF THE SAME RACE AS THE SPACE-GEOGRAPHER YOU MURDERED! ...AND WE ARE HERE TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN? YOU PLAYED YOUR PART PERFECTLY!

THIS PILL WILL HELP YOUR SUPER-CELLS REPLENISH THEIR ENERGY, SUPERMAN! IN A DAY YOU'LL BE NORMAL AGAIN AND YOUR BRUISES WILL DIS-APPEAR!

;GROAN! MY PLOT ...RUINED! BUT HOW DID YOU...

WHILE I WAS BATTLING A FOREST FIRE YESTERDAY, I SPOTTED A FLYING SAUCER, UNCOVERED BY THE FLAMES!

"THE ALIENS FOUND IT AT THE SAME TIME! THEY HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE PILOT..."

"WE FOUND HIS BODY INSIDE! AND WE ALSO FOUND THE AUTOMATIC LOG TAPES THAT HAD RECORDED EVERYTHING!"

OUR SUPER-SCIENCE WILL KEEP HIM TRAPPED UNTIL HE STANDS TRIAL... AND WITH THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE, HE WILL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE ON A DESOLATE PRISON WORLD!

BUT...WHEN I SET THAT FIRE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD DESTROY THE SAUCER!

IF YOU'D STOPPED TO THINK, YOU'D HAVE REALIZED SPACE VESSELS ARE ALL HEAT-RESISTANT!

WE GUESSED YOU WERE STEALING MY STRENGTH, SO WE SET UP THIS TRAP! I ACTED AS DECOY TILL THEY COULD SET UP THEIR ENERGY SHELL!

SOME COMEDOWN FOR THE WOULD-BE KING OF EARTH!

THE END

Dear Editor:

Can Superman look in one direction and see in the other? For instance, could he see what was happening behind him? I've often wondered if he could use his telescopic vision in this way.

—Michael Poulin, Indian Orchard, Mass.

(Sorry to disappoint you, but Superman does not see behind him without a mirror. He can see a mighty long way with his telescopic vision, but he does not have "periscopic vision."—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

Several nights ago I had a weird dream concerning Superman. I dreamed I went to a neighborhood store, bought a copy of ACTION, and when I opened it, I found myself counting five pages of letters. About ten pages later, I found three more letter pages, making eight. Then I found three more pages of letters in small print at the end of the mag. Thus there were eleven pages of fan mail altogether! Can you analyze my dream?

—Stephen Campfield, Los Angeles, Calif.

(Yes. It means you're a man of letters and will probably grow up to be a postman.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

Why do hoods in 1967 comics look like 1957 Marlon Brando imitations? The Hells Angels and the comic industry may not know it, but they are as "out" as can be! Juvenile delinquents of the sixties don't dress like "The Son of the Annihilator!" Sideburns and ducks and taps on shoe-heels are gone-gone-*gone!* And while I don't particularly relish the idea of picking on hippies as the prototype of the juvenile delinquent of today; *anything* is better than this cliche stereotype! The Hells Angels may dispute this, but why encourage *their* way of looking at things?

—Irene Vartanoff,
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill.

(Well, well! La Vartanoff returns to our letter pages, with one of those criticisms which have caused some uncharitable persons to call her "Poison I.V." Actually, Irene, if you'd waited for the next ish, you'd have found that some of the other members of the Skull gang looked more up-to-date. For the rest—well, the Hells Angels and their ilk *do* exist, don't they?—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

I work in a millinery shop, and it distresses me to see that Supergirl never seems to wear a hat in her Linda identity. Perhaps it didn't matter so much when she was just a kid in her middle teens, but now she's a young lady in—if memory serves—her senior year at college. Certainly, I deplore the idea of heroines not wearing headgear, which is my bread and butter. If I had my way, she'd even wear a hat as Supergirl; but I suppose it would burn up from friction the first time she turned on her super-speed.

—Alice Draper, Milwaukee, Wis.

(Yes. And don't you think Linda has enough to do, removing her wig when she switches to Supergirl, without having to take off a hat first?—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

I would like to know just how Krypton exploded. I have wondered about it for a long time. Can you give me the dope on it?

—Greg Koenig, Austin, Tex.

(We sure can . . . in the April SUPERMAN, when we give you the full story, for the first time, of how Superman's home world *really* ended!—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

I've been reading your magazines for a long time, and I know you've said that there are only six types of Kryptonite. Well, I have news for you. You have established that there are *seven* types! Besides Green K, Gold K, Red K, White K, Blue K and Jewel K, there is Anti-Kryptonite, which affects only Kryptonians who have no super-powers. It was this which killed the people of Supergirl's home town, Argo City . . . remember?

—Robert Reiner, El Monte, Calif.

(We remember—and we recall one type you forgot—X-Kryptonite, which gives Streaky, the Supercat, his powers. But since both this and Anti-K are forms of Green Kryptonite, we don't consider that we ever left 'em out of the list.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

I think Clark Kent should be a millionaire, as Bruce (Batman) Wayne is, or a scientist like Barry (Flash) Allen. (After all, Supie's father was Krypton's leading scientist.) The other Justice League members have more interesting jobs. For example, Wonder Woman is in Military Intelligence and Aquaman is a King! Why should Clark be nothing but a cheap reporter?

—Julius Bell, Toledo, Ohio

(What do you mean "cheap"? He happens to be a top, award-winning reporter. Still, he sometimes tries to come up with a better job as a cover for his Superman identity, and you'll be seeing some doozies in the future. For instance, in an early issue of LOIS LANE, he becomes a hot-shot motorcycle jockey.—Ed.)

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SUPERGIRL

THE LATEST CAMPUS CRAZE IS COMPUTER DATING...GETTING AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN TO MATCH YOU WITH THE RIGHT GUY OR GAL. BUT CAN A COMPUTER BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO PAIR LINDA (SUPERGIRL) DANVERS WITH A BOY WHO'S AS SUPER AS SHE IS ? YOU'LL LEARN THE SURPRISING ANSWER IN...

"SUPERGIRL'S SUPER-DATE!"

I'M SURE LINDA IS REALLY SUPERGIRL! BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME!

I HAVE PROOF THAT DUANE HAS SUPER-POWERS! IS HE FROM MY HOME PLANET KRYPTON... OR SOME OTHER WORLD?

AT STANHOPE COLLEGE ONE DAY, THE GUYS AND GALS LINE UP FOR THE COMPUTER DATING SERVICE...

THEY SAY THAT BRAIN-BOX MATCHES THE RIGHT CATS WITH EACH OTHER!

HOPE I GET A SWINGIN' BIRD! I'M A SWITCHED-ON MOD-MAN!

YOU'RE MY DATE, CHICK!

F-18

F-18

FAB! LET'S HAVE A BALL!

IN THE GIRLS' LINE IS LINDA DANVERS...

BLUE EYES... BRUNETTE... MEDIUM HEIGHT! NOW, WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES? BOOKS YOU LIKE? FAVORITE MOVIE STARS? FILL OUT ALL THE QUESTIONS ON THAT LIST!

THEY'LL MATCH ME WITH A BOY WHO LIKES THE SAME THINGS!

BUT BEFORE BEING PAIRED UP, LINDA SLIPS AWAY FOR A FAST SWITCHEROO TO SUPERGIRL!

THE DEAN ASKED ME TO SHOW UP AS STAN-HOPE'S UNOFFICIAL SUPER-CO-ED, AS A PUBLICITY BIT!

HERE'S THE COMPUTER'S VERDICT! TOO BAD, BOYS, BUT SHE'S "UNDATABLE"!

A GUY WOULD HAVE TO BE SUPER-POWERED TO GET MATCHED WITH SUPERGIRL!

UNDATABLE

AFTER THE MAID OF MIGHT REAPPEARS IN HER EVERYDAY GUISE...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MY DATE! I'M LINDA DANVERS! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DUANE TODD! LET'S GRAB SOME CHOW AT THE "DINE AND DISKOTHEQUE" I'LL DRIVE US THERE!

A-12

A-12

I'LL FEED YOUR VITAL STATISTICS INTO THE "BRAIN" SO IT CAN PICK A DATE FOR YOU! HMM... BLONDE AND WAY-OUT... HAS SUPER-POWERS... AND DOES A SUPER-GO-GO DANCE!

AS THE DISKOTHEQUE...

THIS RAGA ROCK IS GROOVY! AND YOU'RE SUPER, LINDA! KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

HE SAID THAT AS IF HE KNEW I WAS SUPER-POWERED! BUT THAT'S RIDIC! HE CAN'T BE HIP THAT I'M SUPERGIRL!

LATER...

THE WAITRESS LEFT ONLY ONE MENU, DUANE!

DON'T FRET, DREAM STUFF! I DON'T NEED ONE!

AFTER LINDA ORDERS...

BRING ME THE 9TH ITEM ON THE RIGHT SIDE... A MOD-BURGER... PLUS THE 15TH ITEM ON THE LEFT... FAB FRENCH FRIES!

WHY, HE'S STARING AT THE BACK OF THE MENU... AS IF HE COULD SEE THROUGH IT, WITH X-RAY VISION!

MAYBE--HE JUST READ OFF THAT MENU AT THE NEXT TABLE? BUT HE'D STILL NEED SHARP EYESIGHT TO DO THAT!

THESE MOD-BURGERS ARE THE GREATEST!... ON EARTH, THAT IS!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

Menu

AFTER THE MEAL...

I'LL LEAVE A TIP AND WE'LL SHOVE OFF, LINDA!

HMM... WHAT'S THAT ODD-SHAPED COIN? I'LL PICK IT UP WHILE HE PAYS THE CASHIER!

THERE'S A SORT OF SPACE DESIGN ON IT, AND THE INSCRIPTION'S NOT IN ANY EARTH LANGUAGE!

THE METAL IS TWICE AS HEAVY AS EARTHLY COINS, TOO! I CAN BARELY SCRATCH IT WITH MY SUPER-FINGER-NAIL!

CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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LATER, DRIVING BACK OVER A LITTLE-USED ROAD...

OH-OH! A TREE HAS FALLEN ACROSS THAT BRIDGE, DUANE... IT'S BLOCKING OUR WAY!

KEEP COOL, LINDA! I'LL GET OUT AND CHECK THE SITUATION!

SAY... SINCE WHEN CAN AN ORDINARY GUY MAKE WITH THE MUSCLES LIKE THAT? IT WOULD TAKE SUPER-STRENGTH TO HEAVE A TREE THAT SIZE SO EASILY!

THE LOG... ER... SLIPPED OFF THE BRIDGE BY ITSELF, LINDA!

I GUESS HE THINKS THE NIGHT HID HIS SUPER-FEAT! WELL, IF HE WANTS TO KEEP HIS POWERS SECRET, I'LL PLAY DUMB!

FINALLY, BACK AT STANHOPE...

GOOD NIGHT, LINDA! AND MAY I SAY... mPs1q4hUBEv

NO... IT CAN'T BE! HE COULDN'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF MY HOME PLANET, KRYPTON!

WOMEN'S DORMITORY

IT'S CRAZY--HE SPOKE KRYPTONESE! HE SAID, "BY THE FIRE FALLS, YOU ARE LOVELY!"*

AND THE FIRE FALLS WERE A FAMOUS LANDMARK ON MY HOME WORLD... KRYPTON!

LINDA TOSSES AND TURNS ON HER BED THAT NIGHT...

HE'S TOO YOUNG TO HAVE ESCAPED KRYPTON WHEN IT BLEW UP... AND COULDN'T HAVE COME FROM ARGO CITY,* WHERE I WAS BORN!

BUT... IS HE KRYPTONIAN? DID THE COMPUTER MATCH US UP BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH SUPER?

*THIS CITY SURVIVED IN ONE PIECE, UNDER A PLASTIC DOME, WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED. -ED.

NEXT DAY AT THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA...

HI, LINDA! MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

DUANE! BUT IF I LET ON I KNOW HE HAS SUPER-POWERS, HE'LL GET THE IDEA THAT I'M SUPERGIRL... IF HE ISN'T ALREADY HIP TO THE FACT!

I'LL GET SOME DESSERT! I SEE YOUR JELLO GOT WARM AND TURNED SOFT, DUANE! WANT ANOTHER ONE?

SKIP IT, LINDA! THIS ONE WILL BE FINE!

WHEN LINDA RETURNS..

NOTHING LIKE CRISP, COOL JELLO!

(GASP!) ...IT'S ALL STIFF AND FROSTY NOW! HE MUST HAVE COOLED IT WITH HIS SUPER-BREATH! ANOTHER PROOF HE'S FROM KRYPTON, OR SOME OTHER SUPER-WORLD!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE MYSTERY MAN TAKES LINDA TO A MOVIE...

WE SHOULD BOTH GET A SPECIAL KICK OUT OF THIS SUPERGIRL CARTOON, LINDA!

SOUNDS LIKE HE DOES KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY!

CINEMA

FEATS OF THE GIRL OF STEEL

ON THE SCREEN, SUPERGIRL IS ABOUT TO DO ONE OF HER MANY SUPER-FEATS FOR STANHOPE COLLEGE..

HOW WELL I REMEMBER THAT! AN OUTDOOR DANCE WAS HELD ON THE CAMPUS, ON A CLEAR DAY! BUT SUDDENLY, BLACK CLOUDS GATHERED AND A CLOUD-BURST BEGAN!

I SECRETLY SWITCHED TO SUPERGIRL.. FLEW DOWN.., TOOK OFF MY CAPE... TIED IT TO WHATEVER WAS IN REACH, SUPER-STRETCHING IT UNTIL...

... AN "UMBRELLA" WAS FORMED OVER THE DANCE! A NICE JOB... WHICH SAVED THE FUN FROM GOING DOWN THE DRAIN!

SUPERGIRL SHOULD HAVE USED HER HEAD, LINDA! THE REST OF THE CAMPUS GOT SOGGY WITH MUD! NOW IF SUPERGIRL HAD BEEN SMARTER, SHE WOULD HAVE...

...FLOWN HIGH IN THE SKY, SPINNING LIKE A HUMAN FAN AND BLOWING ALL THE RAIN CLOUDS AWAY!

THAT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IN SUPERGIRL'S PLACE!

IT'S A CLEVER SUPER-FEAT TO THINK UP! HE SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAD EXPERIENCE USING SUPER-POWERS!

SUPERGIRL

NOW PLAYING

AFTER DRIVING BACK...

I WON'T SEE YOU AT THE CAFETERIA TOMORROW, LINDA! I'M DELIVERING PIZZAS ON MY SPARE-TIME JOB! GOOD NIGHT!

HMM...HIS DELIVERY JOB MAY BE THE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR SURE IF HE'S FROM KRYPTON!

NEXT DAY...

HOT PIZZAS COMING UP, BOYS!

MEN'S DORMITORY

WHILE HE'S INSIDE, I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT...

Tony's PIZZA PALACE

... HIS DELIVERY ROUTE FOR TODAY! HMM... LATER, HE'LL GO PAST THAT EXCAVATION A MILE FROM **STANHOPE**... WHICH IS WHERE HE'LL MEET **SUPERGIRL HERSELF!**

AND LATER...

HELP!... OHHHHH!

SOMEBODY MUST BE IN TROUBLE IN THAT EXCAVATION! THE WORKMEN HAVE ALL LEFT ON THEIR LUNCH HOUR!

Tony's PIZZA PALACE

THE SLOPE'S TOO MUDDY AND SLIPPERY TO GIVE ME THE FOOTING I'D NEED TO PULL HER TO SAFETY BY HAND, SO I'LL TOSS HER THIS **ROPE!**

GRAB HOLD, **SUPERGIRL!** I'LL HAVE YOU SAFE IN A JIFFY!

SUPERGIRL! WHAT'S WRONG?

THIS BURIED **GREEN KRYPTONITE** METEORITE WAS ACCIDENTALLY UNCOVERED BY THE DIGGERS! ITS RAYS WEAKENED ME AS I FLEW OVER! **SAVE ME!**

THE **GREEN K** IS A **FAKE**... JUST A **ROCK** PAINTED GREEN! BUT IF HE'S FROM **KRYPTON**, HE'LL STEER CLEAR OF IT!

HANG ON! UP YOU GO!

HE'S SHARP! HE AVOIDED GETTING NEAR THE **GREEN K** BEAUTIFULLY!

SINCE ONLY **KRYPTONIANS** ARE **VULNERABLE** TO **GREEN K**, DUANE MUST BE FROM MY WORLD!

YOU OKAY NOW?

YES... MY STRENGTH'S COMING BACK! NOW I WANT TO **REWARD** YOU!

I'LL MAKE YOUR PIZZA DELIVERIES... IN **FLYING SAUCER** STYLE!

I GLANCED AT YOUR DELIVERY LIST AND SUPER-MEMORIZED IT! MY SUPER-VISION WILL GUIDE EVERY PIE TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

TONY'S PIZZA PALACE

TONY'S PIZZA PALACE

ELSEWHERE...

HERE'S OUR PIZZA, RIGHT ON TIME! WONDER HOW THEY DID **THIS?**

IS IT A U.F.O.? NO, BY GEORGE! IT'S OUR PIZZA!

TONY'S PIZZA PALACE

LOUIE'S SNACK BA

TONY'S PIZZA PALACE

IF MY PIZZA DELIVERY IS LATE, I'LL LOSE CUSTOMERS ... **ULPS!** IT'S A **MIRACLE!**

TONY'S PIZZA PALACE

BUT I WANT TO DO **MORE** TO REPAY YOU! HOW'D YOU LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DATE ME?

BY DATING HIM AS **SUPERGIRL**, I CAN EXPOSE HIS POWERS AND FIND OUT THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY!

*BUT THE **MAID OF MIGHT** GETS A RUDE SHOCK...*

OPPORTUNITY? YOU'RE PRETTY **CONCEITED**, BABY! I ALREADY HAVE A DATE WITH **LINDA DANVERS**, AND I PREFER **HER** TO **YOU** ANY DAY!

HUH? TURNING **ME** DOWN... FOR MY **OTHER SELF?** I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO FEEL COMPLIMENTED OR **INSULTED!**

NEXT DAY, DUANE TAKES LINDA SKATING AT A NEARBY LAKE...

SO DUANE DISLIKES CONCEITED GIRLS, HUH? I'LL TRY A BIG SHOW-OFF ACT! THEN MAYBE HE'LL DUMP **ME** FOR **SUPERGIRL!**

NOBODY CAN DO FIGURE 8'S LIKE I CAN, DUANE! WATCH!

LOOK OUT, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DON'T YOU SEE THAT SIGN?

WARNING THIN ICE

SUDDENLY...

OHHH... HELP, DUANE... **HELP!**

BUT I-I CAN'T SWIM, LINDA!

WARNING THIN ICE

WAIT... THIS IS A **PERFECT** CHANCE TO FORCE HIS HAND...

I **KNOW** YOU HAVE **SUPER-POWERS,** DUANE! FLY ME OUT... **HURRY!**

DUANE'S NEXT WORDS COME AS A SUPER-SHOCK...

NO, LINDA! I **FAKED** THOSE POWERS TO FOOL YOU! I'M JUST A **NORMAL** GUY!

GREAT KRYPTON! NOW I **AM** IN A SPOT... HOW CAN I RESCUE **MYSELF** WITHOUT GIVING AWAY THE FACT THAT I HAVE SUPER-POWERS?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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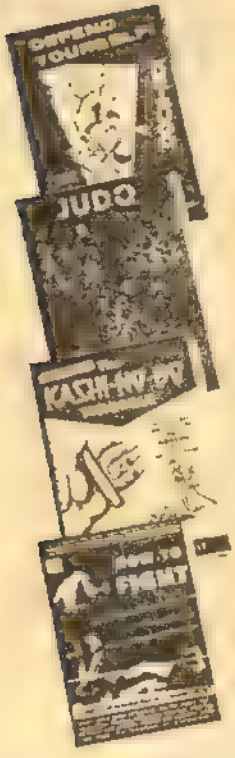

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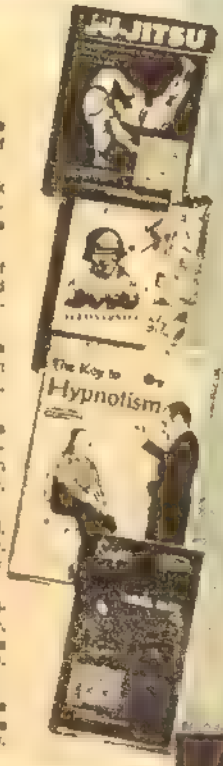

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WAIT... MY SUPER-VISION SHOWS A LOG CAUGHT ON THE BOTTOM! A SMALL WHIRLPOOL CREATED BY MY FOOT WILL LOOSEN IT AND LET IT FLOAT TO THE SURFACE!

LOOK! A LOG! GRAB IT, LINDA!

WHAT **LUCK!** NOW I CAN PADDLE TO THE EDGE OF THE ICE AND CLIMB OUT!

WARNING THIN ICE

LATER, AS LINDA DRIES OUT IN THE SKATING LODGE...

YOUR BEING SO **HELPLESS** IN THE WATER PROVES I WAS **WRONG** ABOUT YOU, LINDA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE **SUPERGIRL!**

THAT'S WHY I COOKED UP THOSE FAKE POWERS! FOR INSTANCE, I HAD **MEMORIZED** THAT DISKOTHEQUE MENU TO MAKE YOU THINK I HAD X-RAY VISION!

"...AND THAT ALIEN COIN CAME FROM MY FATHER'S METALLURGY SHOP..."

I ETCHED MEANINGLESS "ALIEN WORDS" ON THIS PIECE OF **SUPERMANIUM,*** AS YOU WANTED, DUANE!

THANKS, DAD! IT'S FOR A GAG I'M PLANNING TO PULL ON SOMEONE!

"I DIDN'T NEED SUPER-MUSCLES TO HEAVE THAT TREE AWAY FROM THE BRIDGE..."

LINDA DOESN'T DREAM I PLANTED IT HERE, ON THIS LITTLE-USED ROAD! THIS TREE IS A **THEATER-PROP,** OF **PAPIER-MACHÉ!** A SIX-YEAR-OLD COULD LIFT IT!

CRACK!

*SUPERMANIUM IS A SUPER-HARD METAL DISCOVERED BY **SUPERMAN.**—ED.

"I LEARNED A FEW WORDS OF **KRYPTONESE** BY VISITING THE **SUPERMAN MUSEUM** IN **METROPOLIS!**"

KRYPTON LANDMARKS

FIRE-FALLS

JOR-EL
SUPERMAN'S PARENTS

LARA

KRYPTONESE

TRANSLA

HMM... SO *L-4-R-I-N* MEANS "LOVELY", EH? LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER WORDS I CAN FIND TO CON LINDA INTO THINKING I'M A **KRYPTONIAN!**

"HARDENING MY SOGGY JELLO WAS A SIMPLE TRICK..."

WHILE LINDA'S GETTING HER DESSERT, I'LL SLIP THIS **DRY ICE** PELLET OUT OF ITS CAPSULE AND PLACE IT UNDER MY JELLO! THAT'LL COOL IT IN NO TIME!

AS DUANE CONCLUDES HIS CONFESSION...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE MUD... **NOT** THE **GREEN K**... HE WAS AVOIDING WHEN HE "RESCUED" ME!

THE JOKE'S ON **ME,** ALL RIGHT! I TURNED DOWN A DATE WITH THE **REAL SUPERGIRL**... BECAUSE I THOUGHT SHE WAS **YOU,** AND I DIDN'T WANT HER TO THINK I WAS **FICKLE!**

YOU SEE, EVEN WHEN **SUPERGIRL** CAUGHT ON THAT I WAS FAKING SUPER-POWERS, I FIGURED SHE'D THINK I WAS A REAL BRAIN TO FOOL HER FOR A WHILE! THEN SHE'D AGREE TO BE MY STEADY!

IT TOOK NERVE TO ADMIT THAT, DUANE!

BUT I'LL BET HE WON'T DATE **ME** AGAIN!

NEXT DAY, DUANE TRIES HIS LUCK WITH THE COMPUTER ONCE MORE...

I DITCHED LINDA... GAVE **SUPERGIRL** A "NO THANKS"... AND **NOW** LOOK WHAT I WIND UP WITH!

POOR DUANE! HE WAS **DEAD RIGHT** ABOUT **SUPERGIRL'S** IDENTITY! BUT HE'LL NEVER KNOW IT **NOW!**

E-84

E-84

THE END

DIRECT CURRENTS

There's a big month coming up! The Secret Six make their debut! Enemy Ace returns! Stanley and His Monster get their own mag! That's only the beginning; for a real surprise, get a load of the new art on LOIS LANE! And now, here's a rundown on coming attractions:

What foes can possibly trap SUPERMAN and BATMAN . . . subject them to incredible mental and physical torments . . . and crushingly defeat the **WORLD'S FINEST** TEAM? We guarantee a million-volt shock awaits you when you learn the identities of the mystery masterminds in the **March** issue, **No. 174,** which goes on sale Jan. 25!

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COMICS
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YES... BOTH OF US MUST BE EXECUTED AT ONCE!
WE DEFY YOU TO GUESS THE SECRET OF... "THE DOUBLE DEATH-WISH!"

SGT. ROCK of EASY COMPANY faces guns aimed directly at his heart when he meets the teen-age guerrilla fighters of UNIT THREE in the thrill-jammed, full-length battle epic—"A FIRING SQUAD FOR THE SERGEANT!" You'll find this sensational saga in the **April** issue of **OUR ARMY AT WAR, No. 192,** which goes on sale Feb. 1!

Make way for the BIG one—**THE SECRET SIX!** Their mysterious leader is called MOCKINGBIRD—and that's all our stalwart six know about him—or her! Why are they summoned to a weird rendezvous with fate? Take a deep breath before you plunge into the first mission of this international sextet, in the epoch making ish **No. 1 (May),** on sale Feb. 1!

Two HUMAN ATOMS—exploding into combat! Two firm friends—turned into furious foes! An ATOMIC FALLOUT—threatening TWO EARTHS! It's double the action, double the thrills, in "DUEL BETWEEN THE DUAL ATOMS," in the **May** issue, of **THE ATOM, No. 36,** which goes on sale at newsstands everywhere on **Feb. 1!** Need we say—don't miss it?

RED hasn't lost any time, when he returns from the "dead," in rejoining his teammates doing business at the same old stand. And that business is danger and tracking down the unknown but this time our manhunters become the hunted, when a weirdo releases "THE ROBOT HOUNDS OF CHANG!" **May CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 61.** on sale Feb. 1.

Who is the most dangerous mass-murderer of all time? He's BLACK ZERO! He destroyed the planet KRYPTON. . . and his new assignment is. . . to BLOW UP EARTH! **SUPERMAN'S** job. . . save Earth and avenge KRYPTON! But the wily world-killing alien has tricks up his sleeve that can stump the MAN OF STEEL! **April** issue, **No. 205,** on sale Feb. 6!

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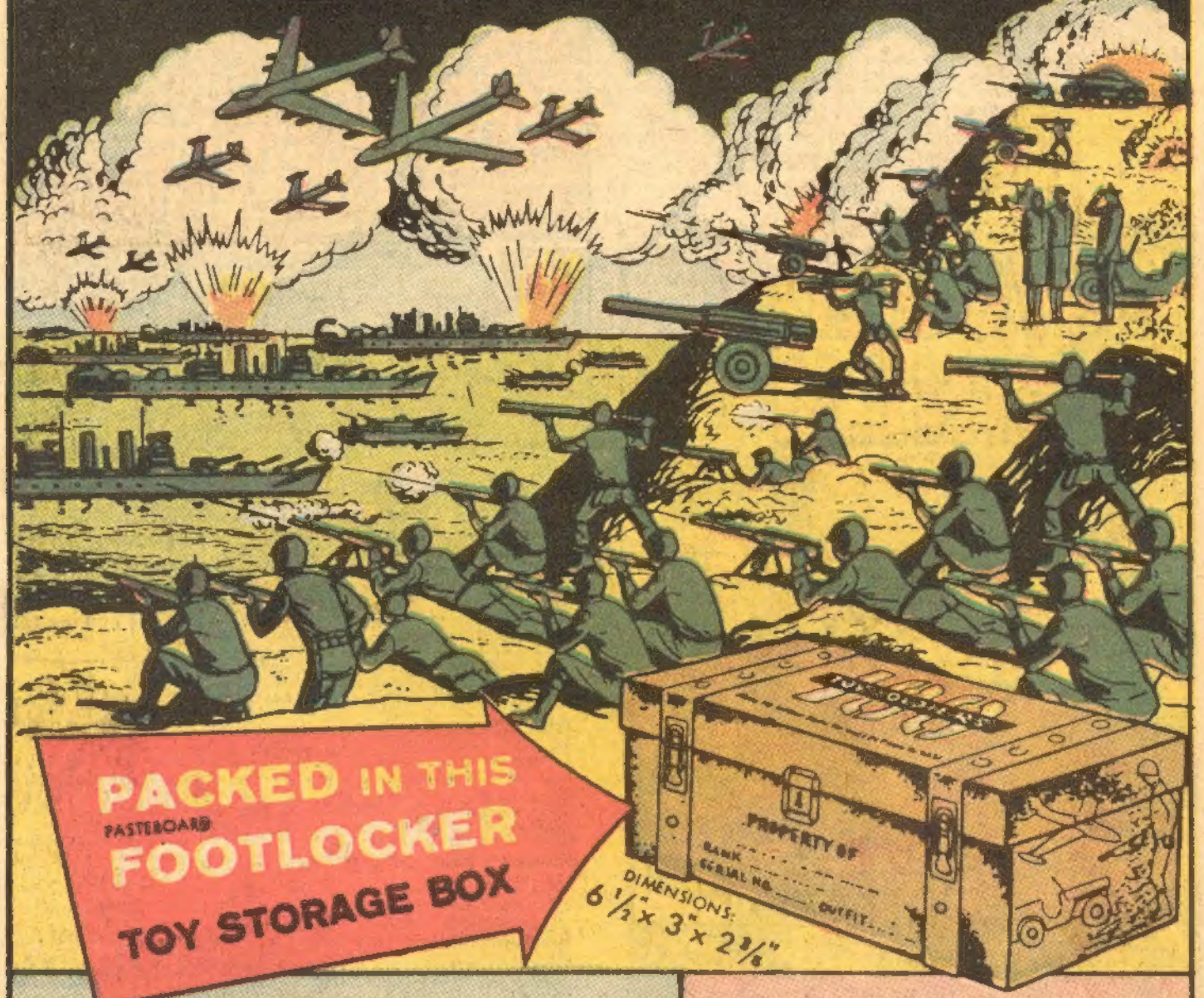

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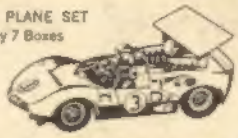
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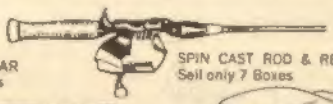
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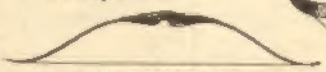
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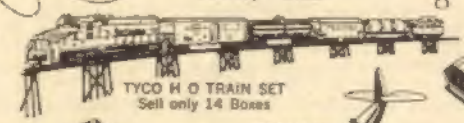
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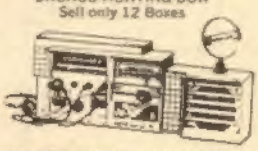
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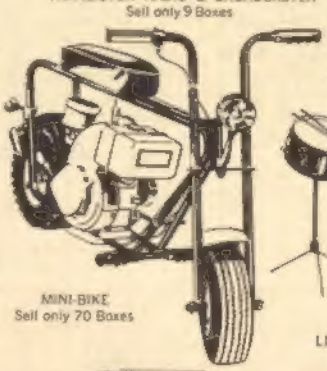
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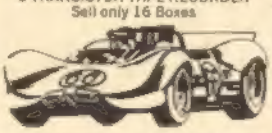
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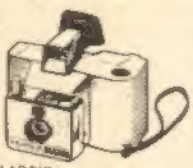
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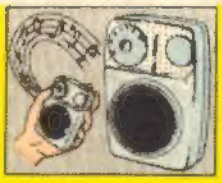
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